

**5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP)  
September 7 - 8, 2021, Vienna - Austria**

**Remarks by the**

**Honorable Deputy Speaker National Assembly**

**On Motion-1 titled:**

**“Achieving sustainable development requires more attention on  
human well-being and environmental preservation than on  
economic growth”**

**September 7, 2021  
(1030 - 1230 hours)**

## **Bismillah Irr Rahman Irr Raheem**

**Honorable Chairperson**

**Distinguished Speakers and Parliamentarians**

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**Assalam-o-Alaikum and Greetings to all of you.**

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to express my views on this important motion. Before doing so, I would like to congratulate the Parliament of Austria for making excellent arrangements for this Conference during these challenging times.

The participation of Speakers and parliamentarians from across the world in the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments reflect the firm commitment of the world parliaments to address the post pandemic situation with full vigour and the resolve to come back stronger.

Despite the circumstances associated with the spread of the pandemic, this event is an indication of the increasing role parliamentary diplomacy plays in deliberating international affairs and implementing development agenda.

**Honorable Delegates,**

Sustainable development is by all means aligned with the interests of people and the planet. But, it also requires more complex policy efforts in order to devise a common course towards environmentally sustainable and socially equitable growth without affecting human well-being.

Historically, economic development has occurred at the cost of the environment. After the industrial revolution, economic development gained pace but the poisonous gases emitted by the industries destroyed the environment. Oceans became acidic, and this pollution has destroyed water reservoirs. Rapid urbanization at the cost of deforestation has resulted in increased temperatures, which are melting glaciers, increasing floods while continuous heat waves have caused unprecedented fires in different parts of the world.

## **Distinguished Colleagues,**

Promoting green economies across the world is a difficult task which can only be achieved through global cooperation. Using energy resources that do not affect the environment can not only boost human wellbeing but also improve the economies. Investing in water reservoirs, renewable energies, reforestation and other human and environment friendly projects will in turn boost our economies as well.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is among the top ten most seriously affected and vulnerable countries due to the climate crisis whereas Pakistan's carbon emissions are among the lowest in the world.

## **Honorable Delegates,**

I feel proud to share that Pakistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, has set its way for the best environment friendly policies that will cause much effectiveness in the environment of not only Pakistan but the regional as a whole.

In wake of the COVID-19 crises, Pakistan has launched the "Green Economic Stimulus Initiative" as a part of its efforts to resiliently recover from the adverse economic impacts of the pandemic. The stimulus has already generated around 85,000 green jobs.

We have embarked on an ambitious programme to create a "green" Pakistan through reforestation, by planting 10 billion trees over the next years, and at the same time introducing renewable energy, electric vehicles and a moratorium on new imported coal-burning power plants.

In order to uplift the vulnerable segments of the population, the Government of Pakistan disbursed Rs.203 Billion (USD1.23bn) to 15 Million families through its "Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program".

## **Ladies & Gentlemen,**

As COVID-19 batters the world and its economy, it's time to rethink sustainable pathways for the future of human beings. The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic are also a great opportunity not only to "build back better" but to "build forward greener". We must seize this opportunity to transform the world economy into one that is development-oriented and environmentally sustainable. Therefore, we may adjust the path and focus of the next phase of the SDGs' implementation in a post-pandemic era.

**I thank you all...**